



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health and Family Services**

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Jim Doyle, Governor  
Helene Nelson, Secretary

### **In Appreciation of Foster Parents**

Each May, Wisconsin recognizes the incredible contributions that foster families make for children in their communities. Too often, foster parents don't receive the thanks or recognition they deserve.

On behalf of the Department of Health and Family Services, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the tremendous efforts of foster parents in changing the lives of children in Wisconsin.

Foster parents...

**Live deeper.** Foster families stretch their own boundaries to accept more children into their lives. These families find meaning, strength, and hope in the change they are helping to make happen.

**Love bigger.** Foster parents know that all children deserve to be loved, especially those who have experienced difficult situations and are facing unique challenges. They know that all children, including the siblings who never seem to stop fighting, and the child who struggles to focus, need safe, stable, and loving homes.

**Leave bigger.** Even if it's for a short period of time, foster parents leave the foster children they have cared for bigger people. They leave their time as foster parents with bigger hearts, and they leave their own children with bigger experiences.

No matter how long a person is a foster parent, no matter how many children they have fostered, these incredible adults and families have made lasting contributions to our most important resource – the children in our communities.

Thank you to each and every foster parent and to every person who has ever cared for a foster child. You have done the most important thing any person could do; you have made a difference in a child's life.

Burnie Bridge  
Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

*Burnie Bridge is the Administrator of the Wisconsin Division of Children and Family Services, which oversees Wisconsin's county public child welfare system and directly administers child welfare services in Milwaukee County.*